



NEWS NOTES

Quarterly Publication of the Southern Maine Library District

Winter 2009

SMLD Board News

Thomas Bennett, Director of the Prince Memorial Library in Cumberland, recently resigned from the SMLD Board. He served on the Board as a public library representative for the past five years, and was chair from 2005 to 2007. Our great thanks and appreciation for his service over the years!

The nominating committee is seeking applicants for this vacancy. See "Council and Board" on the SMLD website for application and job description. Deadline: Jan. 7.

Stipend Offered for CE

The SMLD Board is offering a \$150 stipend for attendance at a continuing education event. All staff of member libraries are eligible to apply. The winner will be selected based on the completeness and appropriateness of the application. The selected applicant will be required to share the information gained with the District – for example, an article for the SMLD website and/or newsletter or a presentation at an SMLD meeting. Application and guidelines are on the SMLD website <http://www.maine.gov/msl/smld/>.

Deadline: March 2 -- Winner announced in March.

Statewide Liaison Committee

In order to facilitate statewide planning, broaden communication, and coordinate district events, a new "District Liaison Committee" was formed consisting of the district chairs, vice chairs, consultants and Maine State Library representative. At the first meeting held November 17, 2008, the group decided to revise board and council bylaws so the same bylaws are in use throughout the state. They also will be working with the state's professional library associations to coordinate council and association meetings. The committee will attend the next Maine Library Commission meeting and present their findings.

Spring Council Meeting

Where can you find the best prices on technology? How do Kindles and downloadable audiobooks really work? What is "open source?" cloud computing? Who will receive the new digital Talking Books equipment?

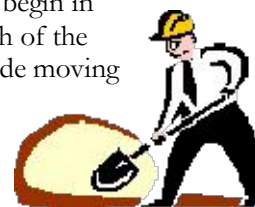
Poster sessions, hands-on workshops, and presentations will introduce participants to a wide range of programs and equipment at the SMLD Spring Council Meeting:

A Technology Fair for Library Staff
Friday, May 29, 2009
Keeley the Katerer, Portland

Watch for details in the spring. And please remember to register this spring on the WebJunction calendar <http://evanced.info/maine/evanced/eventcalendar.asp>.

PPL Building Construction Starting in March 2009

The first phase of construction will begin in late March 2009 on the Main Branch of the Portland Public Library. Plans include moving most of the adult collections into a storage facility off site where it will be available through the PPL catalog and for ILL.



During renovation, a dedicated space on the first floor will provide limited computer access, reference service, circulating materials, and a small collection of children's materials for patrons until construction is completed in 2010. The Portland Room and special collections will be available on an appointment basis. Brown Bag lectures will continue at alternate locations to be announced later.

The SMLD Office, interlibrary loan, and administrative offices will remain in the building during construction. Watch for further developments on the SMLD and PPL websites.

Literary Map of Maine Online Book Discussions

January 2009 the Portland newspapers are launching "Read Around Maine" -- online book discussions based on the books in the Literary Map of Maine. Readers will be able to participate in the discussions from any computer. A different book will be chosen each month.

The newspaper polled its readers for their favorite pick and their top choice will be the January title.

This is a great opportunity to display books about Maine and encourage your patrons to join in on the discussions.

The Literary Map was published in the *Maine Sunday Telegram* Aug. 31, 2008, with 50 adult and children's titles set in Maine. In addition, an online version of the Map is on the newspaper's website. As readers send in additional ideas, they are added to the online map.

Special thanks to Andi Jackson-Darling of the Falmouth Memorial Library for her help with the online book project.

To view information about the book discussions and the online Literary Map of Maine, visit the newspaper web site <http://pressherald.maintoday.com/>

Special note: The Literary Map has been selected as a featured project by the Newspaper Association of America.

Certificate of Appreciation

Libraries thrive because of special individuals who work hard to promote all that libraries have to offer. These people are dedicated individuals, and the SMLD Board would like to recognize their contributions in making Maine libraries great by honoring them at the annual Spring Council Meeting.

The 1st award was given 25 years ago, with recognition given to many deserving individuals who have made an impact not only at their local libraries, but at a regional and state level as well or have been involved with multiple libraries. To nominate a candidate or see past award winners, see the SMLD web site.

<http://www.maine.gov/msl/sml/council/appreciation.htm>

Deadline for nominations: March 1st.

PALS Libraries on the Rise

PALS is a recent PPL service that allows SMLD member libraries to provide PPL cards to eligible residents. There are currently 32 participating libraries in Cumberland county (17); York county (14); and Oxford county (1). Public, school, and academic libraries are included.

Downloadable Audiobooks

Almost 100 Maine libraries had signed on to the statewide downloadable audiobook consortium with OverDrive by the Nov. 2008 deadline. Maine InfoNet received a \$40,000 grant for this project which will pay for the configuration and license fees for three years and one year of maintenance fees. Member libraries agreed to pay an annual fee for purchasing content.

This project provides online access to downloadable audio books, eBooks and other popular digital media. Patrons can check out downloadable digital content via the Internet for free, 24/7, from a statewide collection. Audiobooks can be downloaded in full or in segments, burned to a CD * and/or transferred to hundreds of supported audio devices such as MP3 Players, iPods * or Zune players (*where permitted by publisher).

Members of the selection committee are Donna Bancroft, UMO; Melanie Taylor Coombs, Farmington Public Library; Maggie Fraizer, Bangor Public Library; Ellen Gilliam; Lewiston Public Library; Suzanne Hamilton, Yarmouth High School; Scott Handville, Gardiner Public Library; Peggy Menchen, Colby College; Valerie Osborne, NMLD Consultant; Deb Rollins, Univ. of ME System; Suzanne Sullivan, Portland Public Library; and Beth Sweet, Hurd Library, N. Berwick.

And the winner is ...

Sally Leahy, Assistant Director, McArthur Library in Biddeford, won the gift certificate to Longfellow Books in a drawing for all new **SMLD listserv** participants. Almost 100 librarians had registered on the listserv at the time of the drawing in December.

If you haven't yet signed up, take a minute and join today. We *may* award more prizes, and this listserv is the best way to find out about SMLD grants and special events. You won't get many messages so please don't be concerned about too much traffic. See instructions on the SMLD website. Special thanks to board member Casandra Fitzherbert for organizing the listserv.

Lois Lowry at RRU

World famous author Lois Lowry, twice winner of the Newbery Medal, will be the keynote at the 20th annual Reading Round Up of Children's & YA Literature Conference being held at the Augusta Civic Center on April 16. Do not delay registering -- <http://evanced.info/maine/evanced/eventcalendar.asp> (navigate to April 16). This conference fills up quickly!

CMS Meeting Held in Falmouth



The use of **content management systems** for library web page design was presented at the December 9th meeting of the SMLD IT group at the Falmouth

Memorial Library. Holly Valero (*left*) of HollyWorks in Gorham, gave a lively review of the pros and cons for several CMS systems -- computer programs used to create, edit, manage, and publish material. She covered Drupal (best for large organizations), Joomla, Silver Stripe and ModX (easy to use for smaller sites).

Dale Dormody reviewed his firm's "Library Websites," a product especially helpful for small libraries with limited staff although it is also used in towns of about 50,000. It includes four template designs, photo album, calendar, and many library-specific features.

Around the District

Spaulding Memorial Library received a \$50,000 grant from the Stephen and Tabitha King Foundation for repair of its slate roof, built in 1925. The library was built in 1923-24 for the town of Sebago by Leon Spaulding.

Maine Historical Society Research Library. All library collections and reference services at the MHS library will be unavailable January 1 - early March 2009 for the move from its temporary location back to its renovated and expanded home. When the library reopens in March, queries will be answered in the order received.

Casco Public Library A generous idea - - During November and December the library donated all their fine and bottle return money to "Casco Helping Casco."

Courses and Resources

WEBJUNCTION - <http://me.webjunction.org/>

Among the library courses added to the WebJunction Maine catalog as part of our Community Partnership are the following: Master of Disaster: Developing a Disaster Plan; Introduction to Cataloging for Non-Catalogers; Weeding the Library Collection; Basic Web-based Reference; You Can Do It: A Recipe for Designing Web-based Instruction; Keeping It Simple: Developing a Marketing Plan for Your Library; and Readers Advisory Services.

People

New appointments

Jennifer Bishop, Saco Middle School

Kathleen Kramer, Harrison Village Library

Recognition

Elizabeth (Beth) Dyer, Public Services Librarian, UNE, was awarded the American Chemical Society's scholarship to attend the Charleston Conference in South Carolina. Her winning essay is being published in *LiveWire*, the ACS Publications online newsletter. The Charleston Conference is an annual gathering of librarians, publishers, and vendors of library materials. FMI <http://www.katina.info/conference/>

Meeting Registrations

Please note: For meetings requiring payment, you are not officially registered until we receive your check. We report only **paid registrations** to caterers and facilities.



Calendar

Please register for all SMLD programs and workshops on the statewide WebJunction Maine Library Community Calendar - <http://evanced.info/maine/evanced/eventcalendar.asp>

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| Jan. 9 | SMLD Board Meeting. USM, 1-4 (snow: 1/16) |
| Jan. 12 | Meeting for School Librarians. Freeport High School, 3-5 (snow: 1/14). Guest: Sylvia Norton |
| Jan. 22 | Public Library Directors (Yapping Yorkies) South Berwick Public Library, 9:30 – noon |
| February | Public Library Directors (Loose Librarians) Bridgton Public Library, 9:30 (specific date tba) |
| Feb. 27 | Meeting for Reference Librarians. Westbrook College, 9:30-11:30 |
| Mar. 9 | Meeting for School Librarians. Thornton Academy, 3-5 pm. Library Management Systems |
| Mar. 13 | SMLD Board Meeting. Maine Medical Center, 1-4 pm (snow: 3/20) |
| Mar. 24 | IT Meeting. McArthur Public Library, 9:30 |
| April 16 | Reading Round-Up. Augusta Civic Center, 8:00 am – 3:30 pm |